

'At least 2 people' assassinated JFK pathologist claims

PITTSBURGH, Pa. (AP-
Reuter) — A forensic pathologist who examined the records and materials of the autopsy performed on President John F. Kennedy said Saturday that accused assassin Lee Harvey Oswald could not have acted alone.

Dr. Cyril Wecht, Allegheny County coroner, said at a news conference that a two-day examination of the autopsy materials at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., convinced him that it was "physically impossible" for only one gunman to have slain Kennedy in Dallas, Nov. 22, 1963.

Wecht's findings were in direct contradiction not only with the Warren Commission conclusion that a single assassin was responsible for Kennedy's death, but also with a report by Dr. George K. Lattimer, the first private physician to examine the x-rays.

Wecht said: "The fact is that the physical evidence shows that not any one person could have been a shooter. There had to have been at least two people shooting."

Wecht charged that the single-assassin finding hinges on the theory that

one bullet fired from a single gun wounded Kennedy in the back seat of his limousine, and also wounded and passed through Texas Gov. John Connally, who was riding in the front seat.

Lattimer made his report last January, about two months after the expiration of the Kennedy family five-year ban on making public the material.

At that time, Lattimer, chairman of the department of urology at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, said the x-rays proved that the front and rear wounds in the slain president were caused by the same bullet which passed through Kennedy's body and then struck Connally.

Wecht disagreed: "It is absolutely untenable from a scientific standpoint. I was quite amazed at the pristine shape of the bullet. When one examines the bullet and the various films, there can be little or no question that that bullet did not traverse the body of two men."

Wecht also charged that Kennedy's preserved brain and slides of tissues around his bullet wounds were withheld from the archives, apparently by the Kennedy family.

Kennedy spokesman Burke Marshall said all data requested by the justice department was filed. He deplored Wecht's "chasing after parts of the president's body because he hasn't found any evidence that anything else was wrong."

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